

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00265 221121Z

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ACTION SY-07

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P 220835Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2464

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 265

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, MZ

SUBJECT: PROTECTIVE SECURITY PROGRAM - AMCONGEN LOURENCO
MARQUES

ADDIS ABABA AND BEIRUT FOR RSS

PRETORIA FOR RSO

REF: PRETORIA 1602

1. CONGEN CONCURS IN PRINCIPLE WITH REFTEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS
EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS:

2. RE PARA 2, LANDLORD HAS NOT INDICATED DESIRE FOR CONGEN
TO TERMINATE LEASE. HE HAS, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED HIS INTEN-
TION OF CONSTRUCTING FOURTH FLOOR ON TOP OF PRESENT BUILDING,
DIRECTLY OVER CONGEN OFFICE. HE HAS OFFERED US CHOICE OF
MOVING TO NEW TOP FLOOR, WHICH WOULD BE BUILT TO OUR SPE-
CIFICATIONS, OR REMAINING WHERE WE ARE, IN WHICH CASE HIS
FIRM WOULD EXPAND INTO TOP FLOOR. IF WE SHOULD NOT RENEW
PRESENT LEASE (WHICH EXPIRES JAN 1, 1975) AND VACATE OFFICE,
HE WOULD TAKE OVER OUR PRESENT SPACE AND WOULD NOT BUILD
NEW FLOOR. WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES AND
WILL REPORT OUR RECOMMENDATIONS LATER.

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EM I CANNOT IN CONSCIENCE CONCUR IN ASSIGNMENT OF 5-MAN

MARINE DETACHMENT TO THIS SMALL POST. APART FROM EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR HOUSING, TRANSPORT, ETC., AND INCREASE IN ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN WHICH ALREADY FULLY TAXES OUR EXISTING SMALL STAFF,

A) SECURITY SITUATION IN LOURENCO MARQUES IS NOT DETERIORATING AND IN FACT HAS NOT CHANGED MATERIALLY SINCE MY ARRIVAL OVER TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS AGO, SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS AND SECURITY REPORTS NOTWITHSTANDING. SOUTHERNMOST EXTENSION OF FRELIMO ACTIVITY IS STILL OVER 1,000 KMS. NORTH OF LOURENCO MARQUES. ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF URGAN TERRORISM COULD ALWAYS OCCUR HERE, BUT SUSTAINED TERRORISM WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE HERE WITHIN PREDICTABLE FUTURE. RE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST POSSIBILITIES, ARAB CREW MEMBERS AND PASSENGERS ON SHIPS CALLING AT LOURENCO MARQUES ARE NOT GIVEN PERMISSION TO DISEMBARK AND VERY STRICT CONTROLS MAINTAINED BY DGS (SECRET POLICE) OVER ALL VISITORS AND IMMIGRANTS. THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT GROUPS HERE WHO "RESENT" US-PORTUGUESE "COOPERATION IN AFRICA;" ON CONTRARY, MOST ARTICULATE GROUPS HOPE (IN VAIN) FOR CLOSER US-PORTUGUESE COOPERATION IN AFRICA.

B) DOUBLING OF PRESENT 5-AMERICAN COMPLEMENT BY ADDITION OF 5-MAN MILITARY FORCE COULD BE EXPLOITED POLITICALLY BOTH BY PORTUGUESE AND BY ANTI-US ELEMENTS IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES: PORTUGUESE COULD INTERPRET THIS AS SIGN OF GREATER US STRATEGIC INTEREST IN AREA, AND LATTER COULD PUBLICISE IT AS PROOF OF NASCENT US MILITARY COOPERATION WITH PORTUGUESE IN AFRICA.

HENCEN IN OUR VIEW, ADVANTAGES OF HAVING MARINES ARE GREATLY OUTWEIGHED BY DISADVANTAGES.
VAN OSS

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